



## Confirmation Sponsor Guidelines

### Sponsor Guidelines

It is the very ancient custom of the Church that at the celebration of the Sacrament of Confirmation, a sponsor is present. The function of the sponsor is: a) together with the celebrant who confirms, to represent the Church in receiving the person into the communion of the Church; and b) to assist the person in Christian initiation. In accord with Canon 874 of the Code of Canon Law, the Church can admit a person to the role of sponsor if, a) he or she is not less than sixteen years of age; and b) is a Catholic who has been confirmed and has already received the blessed Eucharist and lives a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken, and c) is not either the father or the mother of the person.

Given the functions and role a sponsor exercises, a non-Catholic Christian cannot be admitted as a sponsor; however, he or she can be a witness. A non-Christian cannot serve in this latter capacity, but is welcome to be present at the ceremony.

Catholics seeking to be admitted as a sponsor should:

- Live a life of faith which befits the role to be undertaken.
- Sincerely believes and strives to put into practice the Word of God as taught by the Catholic Church.
- Regularly takes part in the Mass on Sundays and Holy Days of Obligation.
- If married, was married in accordance with the requirements of the Catholic Church.

Consequently, Catholics do not qualify to be admitted as a sponsor if he/she:

- Is not actively affiliated with a worshipping community.
- Was invalidly married, as for example, before a Justice of the Peace, or without proper dispensation, before a minister of a Protestant church, or before a rabbi.
- Is divorced and invalidly remarried.
- Has not received both Confirmation and the blessed Eucharist.

Sponsors meeting these guidelines must submit a **Confirmation Sponsor Certificate** complete with the signature of his/her pastor as proof of eligibility.